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February 7, 1979

Mr. Louis Harris
Louis Harris Associates
630 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10020

Dear Mr. Harris:

It has come to my attention that Mrs. Robin Berry is under consideration for the position of President of the American Council on the Arts.

Robin has been associated with the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts for the last five years and has served as Executive Director of the Council for the past two years. During these two years the arts have touched the lives of more people across the State than in any previous period. Robin has initiated numerous exciting and innovative programs that have made Rhode Island a kind of workshop of cultural activities.

I am impressed by the Rhode Island Council's recently completed 5-year master plan--a comprehensive study of the needs and goals of the State arts administration. In addition, a useful economic impact study, compiled under Robin's guidance, will soon be released by the Council.

Robin has been a tremendously capable administrator and has been especially effective in dealing with Rhode Island's special constituencies and political officials. Many diverse groups are now participating and sharing in artistic programs that the Council has developed under Robin's leadership.

These are some of the points that lead me to believe that Robin Berry would make an ideal President of the AWA. I have a high regard for her abilities and respect her knowledge and judgement. I commend her to you and ask that she be carefully considered for this appointment.

Ever sincerely,

Claiborne Bell

AC:CF
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